

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Please submit the title of your talk along with an abstract by close of business
Friday, February 15, 2008.

Please submit your abstract as early as possible. Abstracts should be **300 words** or less. Please include a separate list of collaborators in your project and clearly identify the principle contact for correspondence. Abstracts may be submitted in Word, WordPerfect or RTF format as an email attachment to **CONG_RLC@nps.gov** with **Symposium Abstract Submission** as the subject line using the following format:

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY: BIOBLITZES ENHANCE STEWARDSHIP IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

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Abstract:

Tightly defined in time (24 to 48 hours) and space, a bioblitz brings the diverse capabilities of local natural historians, professional and amateur scientists, and students to the national parks en masse to explore, share findings, and educate the public about biodiversity. Bioblitz events represent important contributions to systematic inventory and monitoring programs and can provide basic data needed for resource protection and conservation, which enhances the parks' abilities to protect resources. However, the bioblitzes often focus on groups not surveyed through the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Network. Although they do not comprehensively inventory a park resource, bioblitzes provide important information on species occurrences, richness estimates, and identification of rare, endemic, and invasive species. This information addresses the unfunded inventory needs of parks and is an excellent way to identify and help prioritize possible monitoring needs. Among the hundreds of species counted in each event are surprising discoveries of not only rare species, but also species new to the park, county, state, region, and to science. Bioblitzes can enhance public awareness about biodiversity in national park with interactive, hands-on experience with career scientists, especially taxonomists. Broad and diverse media coverage of these events offers excellent, far-reaching venues to discuss

conservation and park issues. Additionally, the bioblitz events may lead to follow up programs and curricula development. Here, we offer brief samples and results of the bioblitz events that occurred during 2006 within the national parks and supported by the NPS Research Learning Centers. These parks are within coastal, piedmont, mountain, and urban ecosystems. The bioblitzes focused on diverse, often understudied, taxa such as fungi, beetles, and spiders.

PLEASE NOTE

Your abstract will not be edited by us, so be sure to proofread your abstract and the accompanying personal information.

Abstracts will be posted on-line on the 2008 Research Symposium page (www.nps.gov/cong).

Abstracts will be published and sent to those listed on the participant list.

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